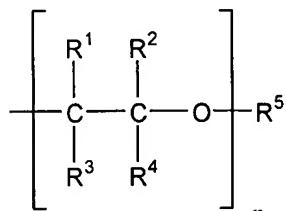


## **Claims**

### **What is claimed is:**

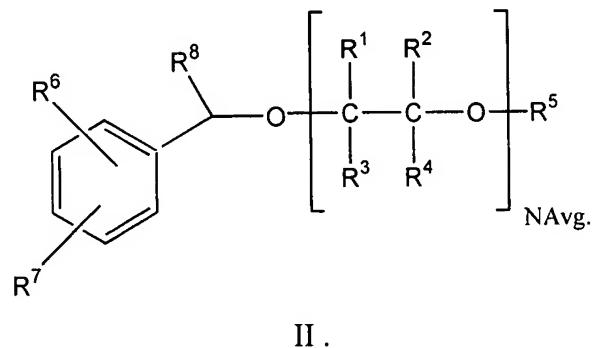
1. A coating removal composition comprising:  
water;  
an alkoxyated aromatic alcohol;  
an amine; and  
an inorganic base.
2. The coating removal composition of claim 1 wherein the inorganic base is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal silicates, alkali metal hydroxides, and mixtures thereof.
3. The coating removal composition of claim 1 wherein the amine is an alkanolamine.
4. The coating removal composition of claim 1 wherein the alkoxyated aromatic alcohol selected from the group consisting of ethoxylated unsubstituted benzyl alcohols, ethoxylated unsubstituted phenols, and mixtures thereof.
5. The coating removal composition of claim 1 wherein the alkoxyated aromatic alcohol contains at least one aromatic ring and alkoxyate units of general formula I



I

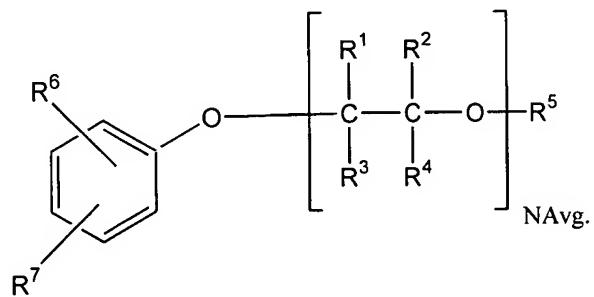
wherein:  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are independently selected from hydrogen and methyl;  $R^5$  is hydrogen, a  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, or phenyl; and  $n$  is 2 - 10.

6. The coating removal composition of claim 1 comprising a mixture of alkoxylated aromatic alcohols of general formula II with a number average N<sub>Avg.</sub> of alkoxylate units from about 2.5 to about 5, and wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are as defined for formula I, and R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are independently selected from hydrogen and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl



II .

7. The coating removal composition of claim 1 comprising a mixture of alkoxylated aromatic alcohols of general formula III with a number average N<sub>Avg.</sub> of alkoxyate units from about 2.5 to about 5, wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are as defined for formula I, and R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are independently selected from hydrogen and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl



III

8. The coating removal composition of claim 1 wherein the concentration of the inorganic base is at least 10% and is not more than 30%.

9. The coating removal composition of claim 8 wherein the alkoxylated aromatic alcohol component is present in an amount from 4-15% and the ratio of the alkoxylated aromatic alcohol component to the base component is less than 1:1.

10. The coating removal composition of claim 9 wherein the concentration of the amine component is at least 0.8 and is not more than 3.4%.

11. A coating removal concentrate composition comprising two separately packaged parts to be combined and diluted with water prior to application on a substrate, wherein

Part A comprises:

- a. an alkoxylated aromatic alcohol; and
- b. an amine; and

Part B comprises:

- a. an inorganic base, and
- b. optionally, chelating agents, corrosion inhibitors, thickeners, surfactants, and mixtures thereof.

12. The coating removal concentrate composition of claim 11 wherein Part A comprises 75-90 wt% alkoxylated aromatic alcohol component and 10 - 25 wt% amine component and Part B comprises 41 – 44 wt% inorganic base component.

13. A working coating removal composition comprising a mixture of the concentrate of claim 12 with water.

14. A working coating removal composition claim 13, wherein the ratio of A:B is 1:3 to 1:2.25.

15. A method of removing a coating from a surface of a substrate, said method comprising:

contacting the coating removal composition of claim 1 with said coating for a time and at a temperature effective to remove said coating from said surface of said substrate.

16. The method of claim 12 wherein the temperature of the coating removal composition is between 75°C to 105°C .